

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

Please add the following new claims:

Claim 10 (new): A modular device for coating surfaces of items with a vacuum chamber, in which a physical vapour deposition (PVD) method can be carried out;

wherein the vacuum chamber comprises at least one anode means as well as a plurality of receiving devices for cathodes; wherein several arcs between the anode means, of which there is at least one, and the cathodes can be ignited;

wherein a first receiving device for receiving at least one cathode is provided substantially in the centre of the vacuum chamber; and at least one second receiving device for receiving at least one cathode on the edge of the vacuum chamber is provided, and the second receiving device is designed as a removable and/or swing-open door of the vacuum chamber;

characterised in that the second receiving device is designed for receiving several cathodes which can be arranged substantially horizontally and substantially one on top of the other such that they protrude into the vacuum chamber.

Claim 11 (new): A modular device for coating surfaces of items, with a vacuum chamber in which a physical vapour deposition (PVD) method can be carried out, wherein the vacuum chamber comprises at least one anode means as well as a plurality of receiving devices for cathodes, wherein several arcs can be ignited between the anode means, of which there is at least one, and the cathodes, wherein a first receiving device for receiving at least one cathode is provided substantially in the centre of the vacuum chamber; and

at least one second receiving device for receiving at least one cathode is provided on the edge of the vacuum chamber, and the second receiving device is designed as a removable and/or swing-open door of the vacuum chamber, characterised in that the first receiving device for accommodating cathodes is designed for receiving optionally one to four cathodes, preferably rotating cathodes, that are arranged so as to be substantially vertical and that are approximately cylindrical in shape.

Claim 12 (new): The modular device according to claim 10, characterised in that two second receiving devices are designed for receiving at least two cathodes each on the edge of the vacuum chamber as removable and/or swing-open doors of the vacuum chamber.

Claim 13 (new): The modular device according to claim 10, characterised in that the first receiving device for receiving cathodes in the centre of the vacuum chamber is designed for receiving optionally one to four cathodes, preferably rotating cathodes, that are arranged so as to be substantially vertical and that are approximately cylindrical in shape.

Claim 14 (new): The modular device according to claim 10, wherein the second receiving device each is designed for receiving the cathodes such that the cathodes are approximately cylindrical in shape.

Claim 15 (new): The modular device according to claim 10, comprising a substrate arrangement means for receiving one or several items to be coated.

Claim 16 (new): The modular device according to claim 10, wherein the vacuum chamber is the anode means.

Claim 17 (new): The modular device according to claim 15, wherein the substrate arrangement means is a rotary carousel, and the rotary carousel is designed around the first receiving device.

Claim 18 (new): The modular device according to claim 17, characterised in that the rotary carousel is designed such that on the rotary carousel rotary trolleys can be arranged for receiving items to be coated, and/or for receiving satellites for receiving items to be coated.

Claim 19 (new): The modular device according to claim 11, characterised in that two second receiving devices are designed for receiving at least two cathodes each on the edge of the vacuum chamber as removable and/or swing-open doors of the vacuum chamber.

Claim 20 (new): The modular device according to claim 11, wherein the second receiving device each is designed for receiving the cathodes such that the cathodes are approximately cylindrical in shape.

Claim 21 (new): The modular device according to claim 11, comprising a substrate arrangement means for receiving one or several items to be coated.

Claim 22 (new): The modular device according to claim 11, wherein the vacuum chamber is the anode means.